sidered life saving and are not manufactured in India.

Contract signed with France to develop aircraft carrier

*173. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a contract has been signed recently with France to develop an aircraft carrier, if so, the details of the agreement; and

(b) the names of other countries which had offered to undertake the work and what are the reasons for rejecting their offer?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) A contract for the Concept Design Study of a Sea Control Ship and Audit of the Cochin Shipyard has been signed with M/s. SOFMA of France.

(b) After examination, the offer of the French Company was selected on technical and commercial considerations from among offers received from France, UK, Italy and Spain.

Steps taken by Maharashtra Government against sex-determination Tests

*174. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the steps taken by the Government of Maharashtra against sex-determination and sex pre-selection tests;

(b) whether these practices have been permitted in Goa, Gujarat and Karanataka; and

(c) whether Government propose to enact a central legislation to stop this practice to cover the entire country and to ban such sex-determination tests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no legislation in these States regulating the use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques leading to determination of the sex of foetus.

(c) Government have under consideration enactment of a Central Legislation to regulate the use and to prevent the abuse of pre-natal diagnostic techniques leading to determination of the sex of foetus.

Approval for setting up of CPT project in Andhra Pradesh

*175. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Electronics Development Corporation Limited (APEDC) has requested for approval of the location at Kondapally Industrial Development Area near Vijayawada for the setting up of a Colour Picture Tube Project and that the project is held up for want of clearance from the Government of India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for the delay and the steps taken to give early clearance in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) The exact location of the project is not indicated in the proposal of M/s. Andhra Pradesh Electronics Development Corporation Limited (APEDC) for manufacture of Colour Picture Tubes. The proposal has not been accepted.

Population prone to Iodine deficiency in the country

*176. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the population

in the country is prone to iodine deficiency;

(b) what are the goitre endemic areas of the country;

(c) whether any deaths have taken place so far due to goitre; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal for introduction of "Universal iodisation of edible salt"; if so, what are the salient features of this programme;

(e) whether any States have banned the sale of common salt; if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what steps are being taken for eradication of goitre from the whole country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (f) The entire population of the country has not been surveyed. However, sample surveys have been conducted in 124 districts spread over 27 States/Union and 115 districts have been found to be endemic. On the basis of these surveys, it is estimated that 20 per cent of the population of the country is prone to Iodine Deficiency Disorders.

According to sample surveys conducted so far, the endemic goitre areas lie in the States and Union Territories of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihra, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Delhi

No case of death due to Goitre has so far been reported.

Keeping in view of the magnitude of the problems of Iodine Deficiency Disorders the Government launched a national programme in 1962 for control of Goitre and other Iodine Deficieny Disorders by universal iodisation of edible salt in the country in a phased manner by the year 1992. The policy regarding production of iodised salt has been liberalised. The cost of the chemical required for iodisation is subsidised and the Government is assiting the salt manufacturer in setting up iodisation plants by providing technical and financial assistance.

The followng States/Union Territories have banned the sale of non-iodised salt:

1. Arunachal Pradesh;
2. Bihar;
3. Chandigarh;
4. Haryana;
5. Himachal Pradesh;
6. Jammu and Kashmir;
7. Meghalaya;
8. Manipur;
9. Mizoram;
10. Nagaland;
11. Punjab;
12. Sikkim;
13. Tripura;
14. Uttar Pradesh.

The following States have issued notifications banning sale of non-iodised salt in goitre endemic districts:—

1. Andhra Pradesh;
2. Gujarat;
3. Madhya Pradesh;
4. Maharashtra;
5. West Bengal;

Intake of iodised salt is the simple and cheapest method for the control of Goitre and other associated Iodine Deficiency Disorders